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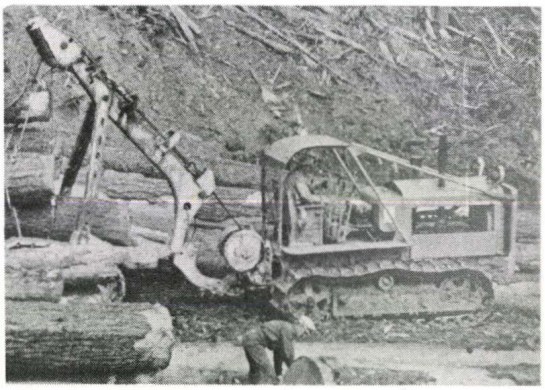
# NORTHEASTERN LOGGERS' HANDBOOK

by

Fred C. Simmons

PRELIMINARY REVIEW EDITION



*Easier and Safer Work*

*Greater Production (more pay) and Better Living Conditions*

## SECTION 5: — PEAVIES, CANT HOOKS AND PULP HOOKS

NORTHEASTERN FOREST
EXPERIMENT STATION

United States Department of Agriculture

FOREST SERVICE
NORTHEASTERN FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

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Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

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FOREST UTILIZATION SERVICE
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If you want to be a mechanic, you will easily find plenty of good books which will tell you what you need to know. You will also find plenty of instructors and training shops.

What about the young man who wants to make his living by logging? For him there is no good source of information to which he can turn. The books and courses on logging are for the logging engineers--not for the fellow who uses the axe and crosscut.

Why shouldn't there be a simple illustrated handbook which will tell the young woodsman (or the green woodsman) what he needs to know about the care and use of his tools and the best of the old and the new techniques of, and devices for logging? He needs to know the "tricks of the trade" as much as anyone.

We hope that these pages, together with other short papers like it, will finally be put together in a printed NORTHEASTERN LOGGERS' HANDBOOK. We are putting it out in this form first because there seems to be an urgent need for this sort of information; and because we need the help and advice of persons who know about logging in our region before printing. We want the experienced logger to tell us what important things we have missed and where our advice is not good. We want the young man going into the woods for the first time to tell us what parts of it he finds hard to understand, to suggest how it can be made more useful to him. We would like the equipment manufacturers to check our recommendations for use of their products and tell us about new devices they are developing.

Please send criticisms, questions and suggestions to: The Director, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, 614 Bankers Securities Building, Philadelphia 7, Penna. Additional copies of this and other publications in this series can be obtained from the same address.

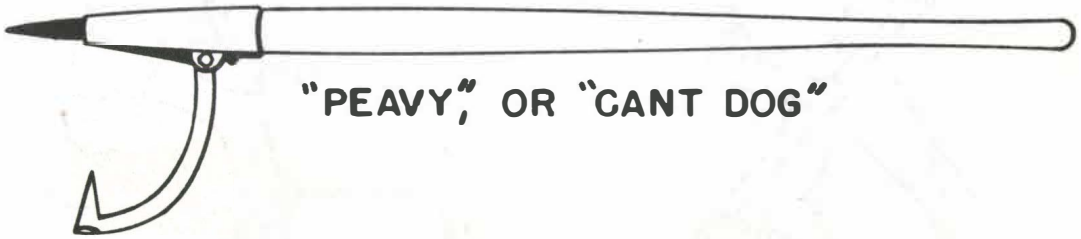
February, 1946

## PEAVIES, CANT HOOKS AND PULP HOOKS

Peavies, cant hooks and pulp hooks are among the most useful of the logger's tools. With their assistance he can easily and quickly move logs and bolts that he could scarcely budge otherwise.

### The Peavy

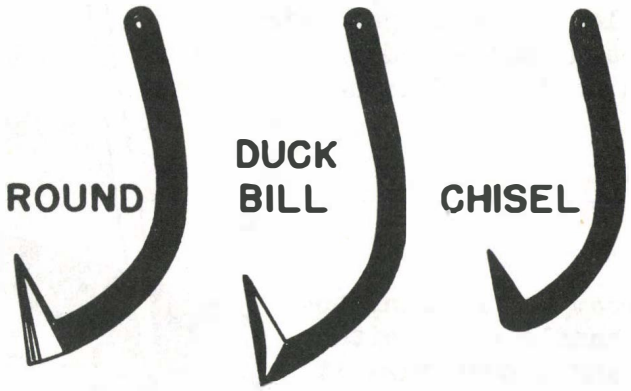
This tool was invented about 85 years ago by Joseph Peavey, a blacksmith in Stillwater, Maine. Elsewhere the tool has taken the name of its inventor, but in the Maine woods it is simply called a "cant dog". Somewhere along the line, however, the name of the tool lost its final "e" and that is the form in which it will be found in the dictionary.



"PEAVY," OR "CANT DOG"

The dog, or hook, is hinged to a tapered iron socket in which a wood stock is inserted. The stock, or handle, may be from 2½ to 8 feet in length. Northeastern loggers prefer the 4 or 5 foot length. In the small end of the socket there is inserted a square-tapered pick point. This is sometimes merely driven into the stock. Some of the more recent patterns have a pick which is forged out of the small end of the socket.

Dogs are made in several patterns - each one designed to meet a special purpose. The bill may be round, octagonal, duck bill or chisel as shown below.



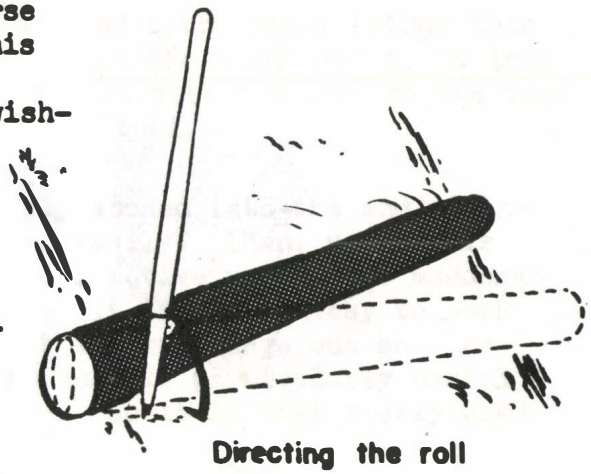
The round or octagonal points are preferred for summer work because they do not stick in the wood. The duck bill pattern is good for frozen timber, for hardwoods and for handling hard dry snags. The chisel point is more often used on cant hooks.

The peavy is used to pry logs or to roll them. It takes about as much experience to be a good peavyman as to be a good axeman. The beginner should be content to roll the log from behind. Until he learns the ways of logs, there is grave danger in pulling from the front. The log is too likely to roll onto his foot or even crush his leg.

AMATEUR PEAVY MEN SHOULD ROLL LOGS FROM THE REAR

ONLY EXPERTS CAN GET AWAY WITH ROLLING FROM IN FRONT

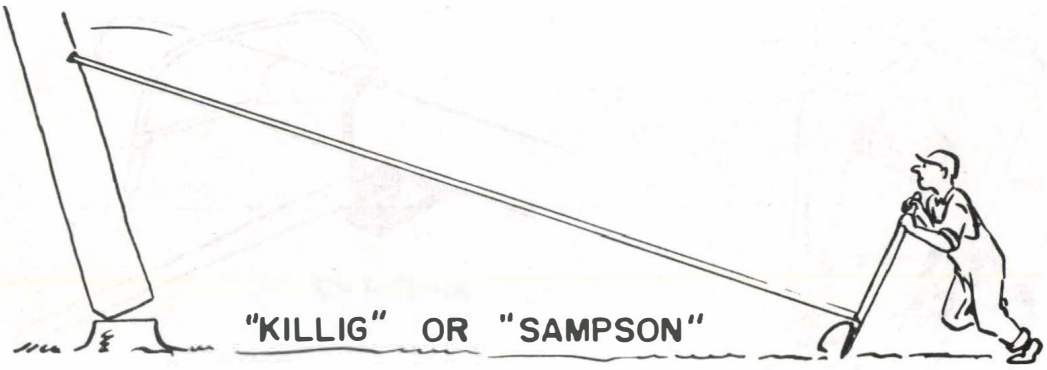
The peavyman should constantly watch that a log rolled from behind does not run up on a hump, and, when he is changing his grip, roll back on his foot. The experienced man will be able to catch his hook even in a rolling log and give it just the right twist - either forward or backward - to make it go where he wants it. When it is necessary to change the course of the rolling log, he will jab his pick in the ground and retard one end just enough to turn it as he wishes.



Directing the roll

Two good peavymen working together seem to handle a log with little effort, and almost make it obey their will.

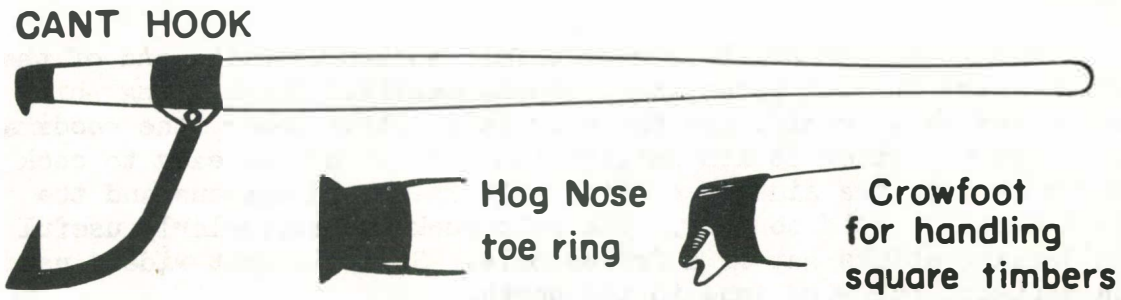
The peavy is often used as an ordinary lever with the dog dangling loose. It is handy for prying logs up onto blocks to prevent the saw from pinching in bucking. It is useful in prying felled trees away from their stumps and even in pushing trees over in the direction in which they are to fall. This last may require a "killig" as illustrated in the following sketch,




A strong hardwood pole is cut on the site. It is notched at one end and given a wedge point at the other end. The notch is vertical and the wedge point is horizontal. The point is then placed in a notch cut as high on the tree trunk as the axeman can reach. The notched end of the pole is braced against the peavy handle just above the hinge. The pike is thrust into firm ground, or into a root is one happens to be convenient. By pushing forward on the peavy handle, it is possible to exert several times the ordinary pole pressure against the tree and aid in directing the fall.

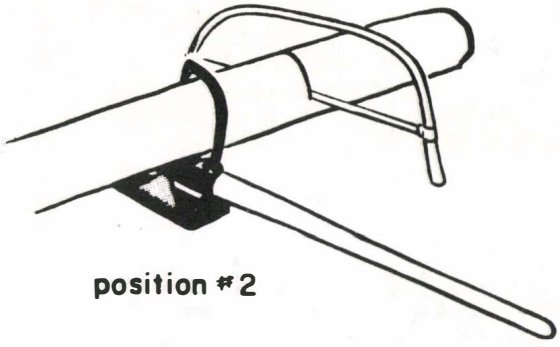
Cant Hooks

The cant hook is designed like the peavy except that it has no point on the end. The bottom of the stock carries a metal thimble which has a "tee" on the side opposite the dog. This bites into the log to furnish one side of the grip. The dog is hinged to a short socket. Several patterns of bill are available. The cant hook is used more frequently on the log deck at the mill, or at the landing in the woods. It is primarily a tool for rolling logs. Canthooks with handles only two feet long are very useful on the log deck of a small sawmill.



Another useful type of canthook recently put on the market is the log jack illustrated below.

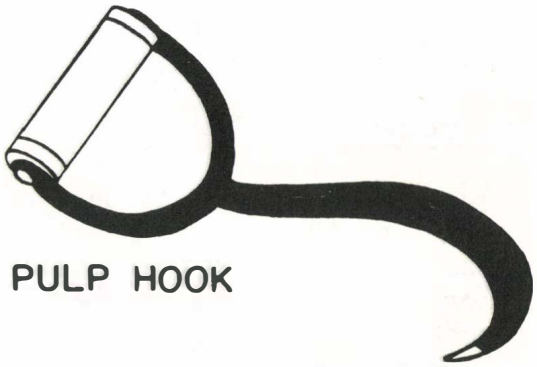
LOG JACK
position #1



position #2

The "U" shaped metal strap bolted on the stock opposite the dog forms a support for the log when it is rolled over. This raises the log several inches off the ground and provides a convenient block to hold a small log while it is being bucked.

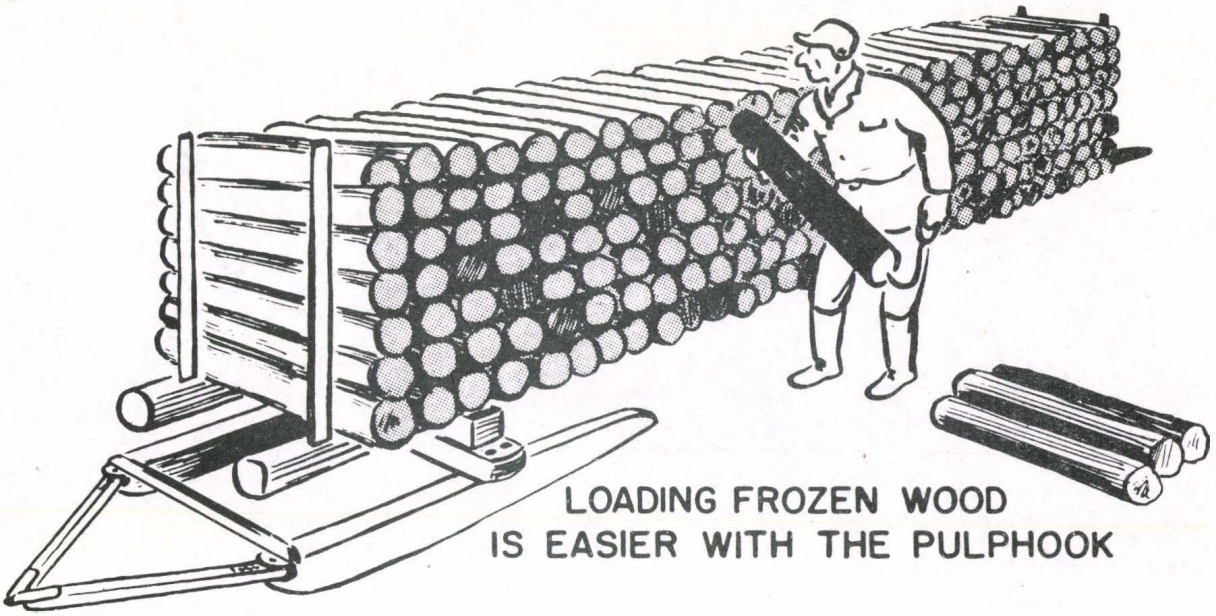
Pulp Hook



PULP HOOK

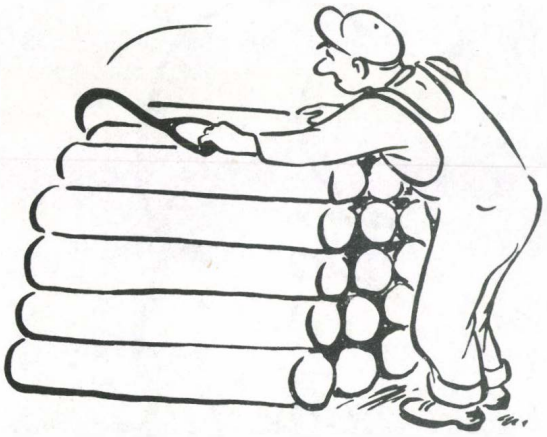
The pulp hook is a short, one-hand tool, used for handling short bolts or four-foot pulpwood. Many pulphooks are made by local black-smiths on many different patterns. The essential requirements are that the hook be made of good grade steel. The point must not be hard enough to break off in frozen wood, or soft enough to bend or broom. A square-tapered blunt point rather than a sharp, round one seems to hold better in the wood, and it is less dangerous to the user. Oval handles which will not turn on the bale of the hook give a better control of the tool.

The pulp hook point is most safely socked into the end of the stick where it will embed itself quite easily. Then, using his other arm as a cradle, and the hook as a motive power, the woodsman can toss the stick to its destination. It is not so easy to sock the hook into the side of a stick. It is more dangerous and the hook does not hold so well. The pulp hook is particularly useful in jerking sticks out of a frozen pile. So it is most widely used on softwood pulpwood jobs in the North.



LOADING FROZEN WOOD
IS EASIER WITH THE PULPHOOK

The user must be constantly on guard against missing his stroke and driving the hook into his knee or leg. This could result in a bad injury.



HOOKING THE END OF THE BOLT IS USUALLY THE BEST WAY

TRYING TO
HOOK THE SIDE MAY LEAD TO THIS

## SOME MANUFACTURERS OF CANT HOOKS

## AND PEAVIES USED IN THE NORTHEAST

American Logging Tool Co.
Evart, Michigan

Dixie Logging Tool Co.
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Peavey Manufacturing Co. *
Brewer, Maine

Snow and Neally *
Bangor, Maine

Warren Axe and Tool Co.
Warren, Pa.

Leach Company
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

*Also make pulp hooks.